

Message Text

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43

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07

DODE-00 L-03 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W

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R 301252Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9305

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2334

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PORS, ETRD, FI

SUBJECT: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 17789

1. FINLAND'S STRINGENT FIREARM AND AMMUNITION CONTROL MEASURES ARE DESCRIBED. CONTROLS ARE COMPREHENSIVE AND PROBABLY QUITE EFFECTIVE. IMPORTATION, PURCHASE BY DOMESTIC BUYERS, RESALE AND RE-EXPORT ARE LEGALLY CONTROLLED.

2. FINLAND REQUIRES IMPORT LICENSE FOR IMPORT OF FIRE-ARMS AND AMMUNITION ONLY FROM THE RELATIVELY FEW -NON-FREE-LIST" COUNTRIES. IMPORTS FROM US DO NOT REQUIRE IMPORT LICENSE RPT LICENSE. IF AN IMPORT LICENSE IS REQUIRED, AS, FOR INSTANCE, TO IMPORT GUN FROM PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ISSUING AGENCY IS LICENSING OFFICE OF MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. IN SUCH A CASE THE IMPORT PERMIT MENTIONED BELOW IS ALSO REQUIRED. ALTHOUGH IMPORT LICENSE PER SE IS SELDOM REQUIRED, THERE IS NONEHETELESS TIGHT CONTROL IN FINLAND OF IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION. EXCEPT FOR IMPORTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, AN IMPORT PERMIT

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RPT PERMIT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS ALWAYS

REQUIRED. A COPY OF THIS WOULD BE BEST EVIDENCE OF FINNISH APPROVAL OF IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM US. EMBASSY WOULD BE GLAD TO CONFIRM IN DOUBTFUL CASES. ONLY INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS LICENSED BY THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES TO ENGAGE IN THE SALE OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION WILL BE GRANTED SUCH AN IMPORT PERMIT. SUCH A DEALER MAY SELL GUNS AND AMMUNITION ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE OBTAINED A PURCHASE PERMIT FROM LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES.

3. DEALERS MUST KEEP RECORDS, IN DETAIL, OF ALL FIREARMS AND AMMUNITIONS ACQUIRED AND OF THEIR DISPOSAL. INTER ALIA, A COPY OF PURCHASE PERMIT OF BUYER MUST BE INCLUDED IN RECORD BOOK FOR EACH SALE. RECORD BOOK MUST BE KEPT FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS AND MUST BE SHOWN TO POLICE AUTHORITIES ON REQUEST. IF A GUN FIRM GOES OUT OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE MANDATORY 10 YEAR PERIOD THE RECORD BOOKS MUST BE TURNED OVER TO POLICE. SELLERS OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN PHYSICAL SECURITY SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT ACCESS BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS. CONTROLS ON HAND-GUNS ARE ESPECIALLY STRICT AND PURCHASE/POSSESSION PERMITS ARE ISSUED ONLY TO THOSE WITH A VALID OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL JUSTIFICATION.

4. EXPORT OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IS ALLOWED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF PERMISSION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE (THE CABINET WITH THE STATE PRESIDENT PRESIDING).

5. IN ADDITION TO THE GUN PURCHASE PERMIT MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARA 2 AN INDIVIDUAL PURCHASER OF A FIREARM MUST WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE DATE OF PERMIT OBTAIN A POSSESSION PERMIT FOR A FIREARM ACQUIRED ON BASIS OF SUCH PURCHASE PERMIT. LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES ISSUE THE GUN POSSESSION PERMIT, VALID EITHER FOR A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME OR INDEFINITELY. A POSSESSION PERMIT MAY BE CANCELLED FOR CAUSE. AMMUNITION MAY BE PURCHASED ONLY BY PERSONS WITH PERMIT TO ACQUIRE OR POSSESS FIREARMS.

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6. THE OWNER OF A FIREARM MAY NOT SELL, GIVE OR OTHERWISE TURN IT OVER TO ANOTHER PERSON, UNLESS THAT PERSON PRESENTS TO HIM A VALID PURCHASE RPT PURCHASE PERMIT. THE SAME APPLIES TO AMMUNITION. HE MAY NOT LEND A FIREARM TO ANOTHER PERSON UNLESS THAT PERSON HAS A POSSESSION RPT POSSESSION PERMIT FOR A SIMILAR TYPE OF FIREARM.

7. WE ARE SENDING BY SEPARATE AIRGRAM EMBASSY
TRANSLATION OF PERTINENT PORTIONS OF FINNISH LAW
RELATIVE TO CONTROL OF PURCHASE AND POSSESSION OF
FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.
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